

To: Holdsworth, Susan[Holdsworth.Susan@epa.gov]; Wall, Tom[Wall.Tom@epa.gov]; Mayo, Alice[Mayio.Alice@epa.gov]; Lehmann, Sarah[Lehmann.Sarah@epa.gov]; Tarquinio, Ellen[Tarquinio.Ellen@epa.gov]
From: Evans, David
Sent: Wed 4/17/2013 10:11:03 PM
Subject: Re: Added Bullet
MAIL_RECEIVED: Wed 4/17/2013 10:11:05 PM

This clearly aimed at seeing WUS policy action.

From: Holdsworth, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2013 6:01:31 PM
To: Wall, Tom; Mayo, Alice; Lehmann, Sarah; Tarquinio, Ellen
Cc: Evans, David
Subject: RE: Added Bullet

No prompting or contact from me.

Susan Holdsworth

Monitoring Branch Chief

EPA Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds

202-566-1187

Holdsworth.Susan@epa.gov

From: Wall, Tom
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2013 5:29 PM
To: Holdsworth, Susan; Mayo, Alice; Lehmann, Sarah; Tarquinio, Ellen
Cc: Evans, David
Subject: RE: Added Bullet

Just to confirm -- they've done this on their own, right?

From: Holdsworth, Susan

Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2013 5:23 PM
To: Mayo, Alice; Lehmann, Sarah; Tarquinio, Ellen
Cc: Wall, Tom; Evans, David
Subject: RE: Added Bullet

Hey all—I think this is good. Democracy in action. We want people to care about water quality.

To Alice's practical concern, we will get help with the response related to waters of the US.

Susan Holdsworth

Monitoring Branch Chief

EPA Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds

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From: Mayo, Alice
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2013 5:03 PM
To: Lehmann, Sarah; Tarquinio, Ellen; Holdsworth, Susan
Subject: RE: Added Bullet

Dang. This seems clearly related to the WOUS issue. What are we supposed to do about it?

From: Lehmann, Sarah
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2013 4:54 PM
To: Tarquinio, Ellen; Holdsworth, Susan
Cc: Mayo, Alice
Subject: Added Bullet

The Sierra Club has posted a NRSA – related item on their Advocacy page asking people to send

in a message about the National Rivers and Streams Assessment to President Obama, Acting Administrator Perciasepe, and the NRSA comments email box. We have received what appears to be 100s of these messages since 3:00 today! The website is:

<https://secure.sierraclub.org/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=10843>

Here is the information from the website and the basic message.

Send a message to protect and restore our rivers and streams

Fifty-five percent of river and stream miles are in poor condition, according to a national survey EPA released in March. Too much nitrogen and phosphorus pollution, bacteria and habitat loss are the main problems. The Obama administration should act immediately to improve water quality by protecting headwater streams and wetlands.

Send a message today!

1. Complete the form below with your information.
2. Personalize your message if you wish.
3. Click the Send Your Message button to send your message to:
 - ☐ President Barack Obama
 - ☐ Mr. Robert 'Bob' W. Perciasepe
 - ☐ EPA docket:

MESSAGE

I am writing to comment on EPA's National Rivers and Streams Assessment, which shows that 55 percent of the nation's rivers and streams are in poor condition. President Obama's legacy should not include leaving the nation's rivers and streams more polluted than when he came into office. The Obama administration should take immediate action to improve the quality of our rivers and streams by finalizing its long-delayed policy guidance clarifying the protection of small streams and wetlands.

I commend the EPA for its new survey, the most scientifically valid national monitoring study of its kind. The bottom line is that too many of our rivers and streams are in bad shape. Excessive fertilizer runoff from agriculture, manure from factory farms, poorly treated sewage and runoff from developed areas have become a major water quality problem. Forty percent of streams have excess levels of phosphorus and 27 percent have excess nitrogen. These pollutants lead to harmful algal blooms that kill fish, close beaches, harm local economies and, in some places

even threaten drinking water quality.

The quickest action the President could take to improve water quality in rivers and streams is to clarify the protections for small streams and wetlands, which trap and filter pollutants, like excess nitrogen and phosphorus, and prevent them from traveling downstream, where they could cause algal blooms and dead zones. The administration announced plans to restore protections to these critical waters in April, 2011, but it never finished the job.

With 55 percent of our rivers and streams in poor shape, the administration must take action now by issuing a final policy that will protect small streams and wetlands and beginning a formal rulemaking.

Sarah Lehmann

202-566-1379

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